

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF TYMCHUK'S HOME INVENTORY OF DANGERS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

A. Overview

As part of the procedures for assessing the safety and development intervention given to participants in the attention-control group, ALL participants, regardless of treatment group assignment, will be asked to complete the *Tymchuk Home Inventory of Dangers and Safety Precautions*. This activity is completed during Home Visit A for all assessment periods (i.e., baseline, 6-weeks postpartum, and 6- and 12-months postpartum).

The Tymchuk measure involves asking the participant to look at pictures of four to five different areas of a household to identify potential safety hazards and precautions to avoid such dangers. Specifically, all participants will look at pictures that represent the following areas of a house: (1) kitchen, (2) bedroom, (3) bathroom, and (4) living room. For those participants who have stairs in their home, they will also be asked to look at a picture of a staircase and to identify the dangers and safety precautions in that picture as well. Copies of the household pictures and the *Tymchuk Home Inventory Data Form* are included at the end of this chapter.

B. Administration Instructions

This activity should be conducted during Home Visit A AFTER you have completed all ETS-related activities (i.e., after the drawing of the household map and administration of the *Nicotine Monitor Placement and Safety Observation Determination Form*, placement of the monitors, and distribution/explanation of *7-day Activity Calendar*) but BEFORE completing the home safety observations.

Prior to starting this activity, be sure to affix the appropriate study ID label and complete the information in the grey-colored box on page 1 of the *Home Inventory of Dangers and Safety Precautions Data Form*, including the date of the administration and assessment period.

Begin this activity by explaining to the mother that you would like for her to look at some pictures of different rooms in a household, and you would like for her to identify all of the dangers or safety hazards that she can see in each of those rooms. Explain that you want her to find as many things as she can in each room of the home that might be a danger to an infant or a child. By “danger”, you mean something that could be dangerous to infants or children, and that might result in their being injured or hurt in some way.

Begin with the first room on the scoring sheet (i.e., the Living Room) and proceed through to the end – that is, continue with the kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and staircase (if applicable).

Give the mother each picture to hold. Ask her to name and point out all of the dangers or safety hazards to infants or children that she can see in this picture. As she names the “dangers” or safety hazards that she can see in each picture, mark the appropriate box on the data collection

form (find her answer on the list of hazards in the left –hand column). Make sure to look on both pages of the data collection form for that room to see if her answer is listed.

DO NOT point out any hazards that she has not identified.

DO NOT lead her in any way to the correct answer.

DO NOT tell her that her answer is correct or incorrect.

If her answer is not clear, or if she mentions a danger or hazard that is NOT on the data collection form, ask her to point to the danger or hazard in the picture, and explain why she thinks this might be a hazard. Double-check the list again, to be sure you have each of her answers checked in the left hand column. If the danger is not listed, write her response in the “other” option listed in the last row of the table.

Once she appears to be done identifying all of the safety hazards she can see, prompt her **ONCE** by asking if she sees any other dangers or safety hazards in the picture (e.g., “*Can you see any other dangers or safety hazards to infants or children in this picture?*”). Once she has finished, tell her that she did a great job.

Then, explain that you would now like for her to tell you what types of precautions parents could take to prevent that from being dangerous to infants and children; how each of the dangers she mentioned could be eliminated or changed so that they are no longer a danger to infants or children in the home. Tell her that you would like for her to mention as many precautions as she can think of for each of the dangers or hazards in the room.

Go back through the list of each household danger or safety hazard mentioned by the mother. Name and point to the hazard (e.g., You mentioned the “electric cord” as a danger), and ask her what types of safety precautions could parents take or what types of things could they do to eliminate or prevent that from being a hazard to infants and children.

EXAMPLE: You mentioned the “electric cord” as a danger. What precaution could parents take or what could parents do in their home to make sure that the “electric cord” is not a danger to infants and children.

Mark each of the safety precautions that she mentions and that are listed in the second (right-hand) column as appropriate. Have the mother identify all dangers and safety precautions that she can for a particular room before moving on to the next room.

Once she appears to be done identifying all of the precautions she can think of, prompt her **ONCE** by asking if she can think of anything else (e.g., “*Are there any other precautions a parent could take?*”).

If she cannot think of a safety precaution, mark the DK response option for that particular hazard.

If she mentions a safety precaution, but it is not one of the precautions listed on the form for that particular response, mark the “other” response option and write in her answer in the space provided.

C. Scoring the Tymchuk Home Inventory

You can tally up the number of dangers and safety hazards mentioned by the mother for each room AFTER your home visit and you return to GWU offices.

If there any handwritten responses (i.e., dangers or safety precautions mentioned by the mother other than those listed on the form), review each of these with your supervisor to determine if the response can be collapsed or combined with one of the other options already available.

Next, count the total number of dangers mentioned in the left-hand column and put that number at the bottom of the data collection form for each room.

Similarly, count the total number of safety precautions mentioned in the right column, and put that number at the bottom right side of the data collection form for each room.

ONLY count the number of “valid” answers as you total each room. “Don’t Know” (DK) and “Other” responses are NOT valid answers. They will NOT count toward the total score.

This form will be sent to RTI for data entry.

INSERT THE FOLLOWING FORMS:

Tymchuk Home Inventory Data Form

Household pictures